

**THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA**

MARTHA ADAMS spouse and personal  
representative for the ESTATE OF  
CHARLES ADAMS, deceased, et al.,

Plaintiffs;

v.

ALBANY INTERNATIONAL, et al.,

Defendants.

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CIVIL ACTION NUMBER:  
2:07-cv-01064-WKW-TFM

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**ANSWER OF KAISER GYPSUM COMPANY, INC.**

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COMES NOW, Defendant Kaiser Gypsum Company, Inc. (hereinafter "Kaiser Gypsum"),  
and in answer to Plaintiffs' Complaint, states as follows:

**JURISDICTION**

Answering this Unnumbered Complaint Paragraph, Kaiser Gypsum lacks sufficient  
information to admit or deny the allegations of the Paragraph and therefore denies the same.

**STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

Answering this Unnumbered Complaint Paragraph, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that  
this Paragraph of the complaint contains no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum, and,  
accordingly, no response is required. To the extent a response may be required, Kaiser Gypsum  
denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in this paragraph of the Complaint.  
Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material  
allegations contained in this Paragraph of the Complaint and therefore denies the same.

**BACKGROUND FACTS-THE PLAINTIFFS**

1. Answering Complaint Paragraphs beginning with No. 1, pertaining to plaintiff Martha  
Adams' decedent, Charles Adams, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that these paragraphs of the  
complaint contain no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum and accordingly, no response

is required. To the extent that a response might be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint and therefore denies the same.

2. Answering Complaint Paragraphs beginning with No. 2, pertaining to plaintiff Cynthia Coachman's decedent, Matthew Coachmam, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that these paragraphs of the complaint contain no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum and accordingly, no response is required. To the extent that a response might be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint and therefore denies the same.

3. Answering Complaint Paragraphs beginning with No. 3, pertaining to plaintiff Valie Oglie's decedent, James O. Davis, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that these paragraphs of the complaint contain no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum and accordingly, no response is required. To the extent that a response might be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint and therefore denies the same.

4. Answering Complaint Paragraphs beginning with No. 4, pertaining to plaintiff Teresa Watson's decedent, Shirley Marie Gilbert, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that these paragraphs of the complaint contain no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum and accordingly, no response is required. To the extent that a response might be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint and therefore denies the same.

5. Answering Complaint Paragraphs beginning with No. 5, pertaining to plaintiff Mollie Greasham's decedent, Archie L. Gresham, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that these paragraphs of the complaint contain no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum and accordingly, no response is required. To the extent that a response might be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint and therefore denies the same.

6. Answering Complaint Paragraphs beginning with No. 6, pertaining to plaintiff Jannie Hicks' decedent, Willie Hicks, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that these paragraphs of the complaint contain no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum and accordingly, no response is required. To the extent that a response might be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint and therefore denies the same.

7. Answering Complaint Paragraphs beginning with No. 7, pertaining to plaintiff Pauline M. Matthews, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that these paragraphs of the complaint contain no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum and accordingly, no response is required. To the extent that a response might be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint and therefore denies the same.

8. Answering Complaint Paragraphs beginning with No. 8, pertaining to plaintiff fBobbie Prentice, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that these paragraphs of the complaint contain no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum and accordingly, no response is required. To the extent that a response might be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the

allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint and therefore denies the same.

9. Answering Complaint Paragraphs beginning with No. 9, pertaining to plaintiff Patsy W. Mibus's decedent, Charles Webb,, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that these paragraphs of the complaint contain no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum and accordingly, no response is required. To the extent that a response might be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint and therefore denies the same.

10. Answering Complaint Paragraphs beginning with No. 10, pertaining to plaintiff Beverly Agee's decedent, Yon Wiggins, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that these paragraphs of the complaint contain no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum and accordingly, no response is required. To the extent that a response might be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in these paragraphs of the complaint and therefore denies the same.

#### **BACKGROUND FACTS-THE DEFENDANTS**

11. Kaiser Gypsum adopts and realleges all previous Paragraphs of its Answer as if the same were fully set out herein.

12. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 12, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that this Paragraph of the complaint contains no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum, and, accordingly, no response is required. To the extent a response may be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in this paragraph of the Complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material

allegations contained in this Paragraph of the Complaint and therefore denies the same.

13. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 13, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that this Paragraph of the complaint contains no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum, and, accordingly, no response is required. To the extent a response may be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in this paragraph of the Complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in this Paragraph of the Complaint and therefore denies the same.

14-56. The allegations of Paragraphs 14 through 56 are directed to Defendants other than this Defendant, and Defendant lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity thereof. Defendant therefore denies the allegations of Paragraphs 14 through 56.

57. Kaiser Gypsum responds to the allegations of Paragraph 57 by stating it is a corporation incorporated under the laws of a state other than Alabama. Kaiser Gypsum denies that it has committed torts against Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' decedents in Alabama. Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability to Plaintiffs, individually or vicariously, based on the actions of any other entity, including those entities identified as co-Defendants in Plaintiffs' Complaint. To the extent this Paragraph is intended to contain any other material allegations against Kaiser Gypsum, they are denied. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient information to admit or deny the remaining allegations of this Paragraph of Plaintiffs' Complaint and therefore denies the same.

58-98. The allegations of Paragraphs 58 through 98 are directed to Defendants other than this Defendant, and Defendant lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or falsity thereof. Defendant therefore denies the allegations of Paragraphs 58 through 98.

**DEFENDANTS' CONDUCT AND PLAINTIFF'S DECEDENT'S INJURY**

99. Kaiser Gypsum adopts and realleges all previous Paragraphs of its Answer as if the same were fully set out herein.

100. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 100, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of

the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

101. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 101, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

102. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 102, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

103. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 103, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

A. Answering Subparagraph A., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

B. Answering Subparagraph B., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

C. Answering Subparagraph C., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

D. Answering Subparagraph D., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

E. Answering Subparagraph E., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

F. Answering Subparagraph F., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

G. Answering Subparagraph G., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

H. Answering Subparagraph H., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

I. Answering Subparagraph I., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

J. Answering Subparagraph J., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

K. Answering Subparagraph K., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

L. Answering Subparagraph L., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

M. Answering Subparagraph M., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

N. Answering Subparagraph N., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

O. Answering Subparagraph O., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

P. Answering Subparagraph P., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

Q. Answering Subparagraph Q., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

R. Answering Subparagraph R., Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

104. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 104, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

#### **COUNT ONE**

##### **As to Alabama Extended Manufacturer's Liability Doctrine**

105. Kaiser Gypsum adopts and realleges all previous Paragraphs of its Answer as if the same were fully set out herein.

106. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 106, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that this

Paragraph of the complaint contains no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum, and, accordingly, no response is required. To the extent a response may be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in this paragraph of the Complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in this Paragraph of the Complaint and therefore denies the same.

107. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 107, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that this Paragraph of the complaint contains no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum, and, accordingly, no response is required. To the extent a response may be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in this paragraph of the Complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in this Paragraph of the Complaint and therefore denies the same.

A. Answering Subparagraph A., Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that this Paragraph of the complaint contains no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum, and, accordingly, no response is required. To the extent a response may be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in this paragraph of the Complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in this Paragraph of the Complaint and therefore denies the same.

B. Answering Subparagraph B., Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that this Paragraph of the complaint contains no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum, and, accordingly, no response is required. To the extent a response may be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in this paragraph of the Complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in this Paragraph of the Complaint and therefore denies the same.

108. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 108, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.



109. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 109, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

**COUNT TWO**

**As to Negligence and Intentional Tort**

110. Kaiser Gypsum adopts and realleges all previous Paragraphs of its Answer as if the same were fully set out herein.

111. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 111, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that this Paragraph of the complaint contains no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum, and, accordingly, no response is required. To the extent a response may be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in this paragraph of the Complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in this Paragraph of the Complaint and therefore denies the same.

112. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 112, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

113. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 113, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

114. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 114, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

115. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 115, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

116. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 116, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

117. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 117, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

118. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 118, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of

the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

119. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 119, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

120. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 120, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

121. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 121, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

122. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 122, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

### **COUNT THREE**

#### **As to Negligence in the Course of Employment**

123. Kaiser Gypsum adopts and realleges all previous Paragraphs of its Answer as if the same were fully set out herein.

124. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 124, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that this Paragraph of the complaint contains no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum, and, accordingly, no response is required. To the extent a response may be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in this paragraph of the Complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in this Paragraph of the Complaint and therefore denies the same.

125. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 125, Kaiser Gypsum lacks sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations of the Paragraph and therefore denies the same.

126. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 126, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

127. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 127, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

128. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 128, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

129. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 129, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

#### **COUNT FOUR**

##### **As to Fraudulent Concealment / Misrepresentation / Alteration of Medical Studies / Conspiracy / Aiding and Abetting Conspiracy**

130. Kaiser Gypsum adopts and realleges all previous Paragraphs of its Answer as if the same were fully set out herein.

131-146. The allegations of these Paragraphs appear to attempt to set forth causes of action against other Defendants. Hence no response is required. To the extent the allegations of these Paragraphs could be construed as attempting to set forth allegations that Defendant was part of a conspiracy to injure the Plaintiffs, Kaiser Gypsum denies same and demands strict proof thereof.

#### **COUNT FIVE**

##### **As to Product Liability, Combined and Concurring Negligence, Intentional Tort and Conspiracy**

147. Kaiser Gypsum adopts and realleges all previous Paragraphs of its Answer as if the same were fully set out herein.

148. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 148, Kaiser Gypsum responds stating that this Paragraph of the complaint contains no factual allegations directed at Kaiser Gypsum, and, accordingly, no response is required. To the extent a response may be required, Kaiser Gypsum denies any liability arising out of the allegations contained in this paragraph of the Complaint. Kaiser Gypsum is currently without sufficient knowledge to admit or deny the remaining material allegations contained in this Paragraph of the Complaint and therefore denies the same.

149. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 149, Kaiser Gypsum denies the allegations of

the Paragraph and demands strict proof thereof.

150. Answering Complaint Paragraph No. 150, Kaiser Gypsum lacks sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations of the Paragraph and therefore denies the same.

**AS TO JURY DEMAND AND AD DAMNUM**

Responding to Plaintiff's Prayer for Relief, Kaiser Gypsum denies the Plaintiffs are entitled to any form of judgment against them; denies that Plaintiffs are entitled to damages from Kaiser Gypsum; and denies the Plaintiffs are entitled to any of the relief requested in the Complaint.

**AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

In addition to the foregoing, Kaiser Gypsum offers the following affirmative defenses:

**FIRST DEFENSE**

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The Complaint does not state a cause of action upon which relief can be granted.

**SECOND DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum reserves the right to amend this Answer until all discovery in this case has been completed.

**THIRD DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum denies each and every material averment pled in Plaintiffs' complaint against Kaiser Gypsum and demands strict proof thereof.

**FOURTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs have not suffered a compensable injury.

**FIFTH DEFENSE**

If it is determined that any form of recovery has been made by way of judgment, settlement, or otherwise, for all or any part of the alleged injuries or damages, then Kaiser Gypsum claims the benefit of such recovery by way of set-off, payment, credit, recruitment, accord and satisfaction, or otherwise.

**SIXTH DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum pleads improper venue.

**SEVENTH DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum pleads insufficiency of process, and/or insufficiency of service of process.

**EIGHTH DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum pleads *Forum Non Conveniens*.

**NINTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs, separately and severally, lack standing.

**TENTH DEFENSE**

This Court lacks jurisdiction over the person of Kaiser Gypsum, and/or over the subject matter of this action.

**ELEVENTH DEFENSE**

The Complaint should be dismissed based on a mis-joinder of parties and/or of claims.

**TWELFTH DEFENSE**

To the extent that Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' Decedents have filed an action in any other Court against some or all of these same defendants, this action should be dismissed in the interest of judicial economy and so as to prevent double recovery and/or inconsistent findings of fact as between the same parties on the same cause(s) of action.

**THIRTEENTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs may be barred from recovery of damages pursuant to the collateral source doctrine.

**FOURTEENTH DEFENSE**

To the extent that the laws of other jurisdictions may apply, Kaiser Gypsum invokes each and every constitutional defense available to it under the constitutions (or similar charters), and each and every statutory and common law defense available to it under the laws of each of the

other forty-nine states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories and possession of the United States with respect to each of the claims alleged in the Complaint that is recognized in that jurisdiction. This specifically includes, but is not limited to, provisions relating to due process, access to the courts, and limitations on compensatory and punitive damages.

**FIFTEENTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs' claims are barred by collateral estoppel and/or *res judicata*.

**SIXTEENTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs' claims, separately and severally, are barred by the doctrines of laches, estoppel, and waiver, separately and severally.

**SEVENTEENTH DEFENSE**

The Plaintiffs' claims are barred by the applicable statute of limitations.

**EIGHTEENTH DEFENSE**

The Complaint fails to allege with sufficient particularity the dates on which Plaintiffs' and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents allegedly discovered that their injuries were caused by exposure to Kaiser Gypsum's products, if any.

**NINETEENTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs' claims, separately and severally, are barred by the rule of repose.

**TWENTIETH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs' or Plaintiffs' Decedents' employer(s) were, upon information and belief, so experienced and sophisticated that no duty to warn existed.

**TWENTY-FIRST DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs' claims against Kaiser Gypsum are barred by the bulk supplier doctrine.

**TWENTY-SECOND DEFENSE**

Some of all of the Plaintiffs' claims are barred by the doctrine of release.

### **TWENTY-THIRD DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum avers that it did not participate in, authorize, ratify or benefit from the alleged wrongful acts that are asserted in the Complaint.

### **TWENTY-FOURTH DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum is denied due process and equal protection of the law because it is denied defenses available to other defendants in tort cases.

### **TWENTY-FIFTH DEFENSE**

The claims contained in the Complaint, which seek the recovery of punitive damages, under present Alabama law, violate the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America on the following grounds:

- (a) it is a violation of the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution to impose punitive damages, which are penal in nature, against a civil defendant upon the plaintiff's satisfying a burden of proof which is less than the "beyond a reasonable doubt" burden of proof required in criminal cases;
- (b) the procedures pursuant to which punitive damages are awarded may result in the award of joint and several judgments against multiple Defendants for different alleged acts of wrongdoing, which infringes the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution;
- (c) the procedures pursuant to which punitive damages are awarded fail to provide a reasonable limit on the amount of the award against these Defendant, which violates the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution;
- (d) the procedures pursuant to which punitive damages are awarded fail to provide specific standards for the amount of the award of punitive damages, which violates the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution;
- (e) the procedures pursuant to which punitive damages are awarded result in the imposition of different penalties for the same or similar acts, and thus violate the Equal protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution;
- (f) the procedures pursuant to which punitive damages are awarded permit the imposition of punitive damages in excess of the maximum criminal fine for the same or similar conduct, which thereby infringes the Due Process Clause of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution; and
- (g) the procedures pursuant to which punitive damages are awarded permit the imposition of excessive fines in the violation of the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

### **TWENTY-SIXTH DEFENSE**

The recovery of punitive damages by the Plaintiffs in this action would violate the Due Process Clause of Article One, Section Six of the Constitution of Alabama on the following grounds:

- (a) it is a violation of the Due Process Clause to impose punitive damages, which are penal in nature, upon a civil defendant upon the plaintiff satisfying a burden of proof less than the "beyond a reasonable doubt" burden of proof required in criminal cases;
- (b) the procedures pursuant to which punitive damages are awarded fail to provide a limit on the amount of the award against these Defendant;
- (c) the procedures pursuant to which punitive damages are awarded are unconstitutionally vague;
- (d) the procedures pursuant to which punitive damages are awarded fail to provide specific standards for the amount of the award of punitive damages;
- (e) the award of punitive damages in this case would constitute a deprivation of property without due process; and
- (f) the procedures pursuant to which punitive damages are awarded may result in the award of a joint and several judgments against multiple Defendant for different alleged acts of wrongdoing, which infringes the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

### **TWENTY-SEVENTH DEFENSE**

The award of punitive damages to the Plaintiffs in this action would constitute a deprivation of property without due process of law required under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution.

### **TWENTY-EIGHTH DEFENSE**

The procedures pursuant to which punitive damages are awarded permit the imposition of an excessive fine in violation of Article One, Section Sixteen of the Constitution of Alabama.

### **TWENTY-NINTH DEFENSE**

Any and all claims for punitive damages in this action are limited in the amount by application of *Ala. Code* §6-11-21 (1975).

### **THIRTIETH DEFENSE**

The Plaintiffs' demand for punitive damages constitutes double jeopardy and violates the Alabama and United States Constitutions.



**THIRTY-FIRST DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs are not entitled to a jury trial with respect to the claims for punitive damages.

**THIRTY-SECOND DEFENSE**

*Alabama Code* Section 6-5-410 violates the United States and Alabama Constitutions in that it deprives defendant of its right to a jury trial guaranteed by the Seventh Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 11 of the Constitution of Alabama by allowing punitive damages to be assessed and imposed based on the conduct of persons or entities other than defendants or defendants' agents or employees and/or without apportionment of damages based on the degree of culpability of defendants, if any.

**THIRTY-THIRD DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum denies that it is guilty of any conduct or inaction which proximately caused or contributed to Plaintiffs' or Plaintiffs' Decedents' illnesses or deaths.

**THIRTY-FOURTH DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum avers that on the occasion of the illnesses and deaths made the basis of this suit, the Plaintiffs, their Decedents or other persons or entities were guilty of negligence and/or assumed the risk of any hazard which caused or which proximately contributed to cause the illnesses and deaths.

**THIRTY-FIFTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs' claims, separately and severally, are barred because the damages and injuries alleged in the Complaint were not caused by Kaiser Gypsum or any product, manufactured by Kaiser Gypsum, but any such damages and injuries were the proximate result of the conduct of other persons over whom the defendant had no control and for whom Kaiser Gypsum is not responsible.

**THIRTY-SIXTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs' Decedents failed to mitigate or otherwise act to lessen or reduce the injuries and

damages alleged in the complaint.

**THIRTY-SEVENTH DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum avers that the alleged injuries and damages of Plaintiffs' and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents, if any, which are strictly denied, resulted from a pre-existing or unrelated condition, disease, or infirmity for which Kaiser Gypsum is not liable.

**THIRTY-EIGHTH DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum did not act negligently.

**THIRTY-NINTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs' claims, separately and severally, are barred by the learned intermediary doctrine in that the employers of Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' Decedents had notice of any danger or hazard involved in handling asbestos-related products and of any precautions necessary for the sage handling of such products.

**FORTIETH DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum did not owe a duty to warn Plaintiffs' or Plaintiffs' Decedents of potential risks, if any, associated with working with asbestos-related products because Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' Decedents were or should have been fully aware of any potential risk, if any, prior to the occasion which forms the basis of this complaint.

**FORTY-FIRST DEFENSE**

The knowledge of Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' Decedents of the potential risk, if any, associated with handling asbestos-related products was not the responsibility of the defendant because the defendant was not in privity with Plaintiffs' Decedents and their employers were fully aware of such potential risk prior to the incidents made the basis of Plaintiffs' suit.

**FORTY-SECOND DEFENSE**

At the time of sale and/or delivery of any product manufactured by Kaiser Gypsum that may be involved in this case, any such product complied with any and all state and federal codes,

standards, and regulations.

#### **FORTY-THIRD DEFENSE**

The injuries and damages allegedly sustained by Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' Decedents, if any, were incurred as a result of the misuse of a product, if any, manufactured by Kaiser Gypsum.

#### **FORTY-FOURTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' Decedents were not exposed to any asbestos product through any act or omission of Kaiser Gypsum, and if any such exposure occurred, which is denied, such exposure was of such insufficient quantities or at such time or under such conditions as not to render Kaiser Gypsum liable therefor.

#### **FORTY-FIFTH DEFENSE**

There should be no recovery against Kaiser Gypsum because of any failure to warn or the inadequacy of warnings. Upon information and belief, at all times pertinent to Plaintiffs' claims Plaintiff's and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents were possessed of or should have been possessed of good and adequate knowledge which negated any need for said warning and Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents were required to follow specific written safety procedures as established by Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents' employers which negated the need or requirement for any such warning.

#### **FORTY-SIXTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents misused, abused, abnormally or improperly used some or all of the products referred to in the Complaint, and used them in a manner other than that for which they were intended. Such abuse, or abnormal, improper use proximately caused or contributed to, in whole or in part, the alleged injuries or illnesses sustained by Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents. Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents failed to observe and use ordinary care and caution for ones' own safety and well-being, knowing that the products Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents were using could cause damage if misused. Therefore, the proximate cause

of Plaintiffs' and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents' alleged injuries or illnesses were, if any, a direct result of Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents' negligence.

#### **FORTY-SEVENTH DEFENSE**

If the Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents sustained any injuries or illnesses, as alleged, which is denied, then such injuries or illnesses were proximately caused or contributed to by exposure to or inhalation of noxious and deleterious fumes and residues from industrial products and by-products prevalent on their job sites and substances not legally connected to Kaiser Gypsum, and by cumulative exposure to all types of environmental and industrial pollutants of air and water.

#### **FORTY-EIGHTH DEFENSE**

It was the duty of Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents' employers and not Kaiser Gypsum to furnish Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents with reasonably safe places within which to work, including all necessary and adequate warnings and safety appliances to safeguard Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents. Also, if Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents suffered any injury, illness or other damage, which is denied, then failure of Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents' employers in their duty toward Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents was the sole proximate cause of any such injury, illness or other damage, if any, or, in the alternative, was such an intervening cause as to relieve Kaiser Gypsum from any liability to Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' Decedents.

#### **FORTY-NINTH DEFENSE**

To the extent that Plaintiffs' or Plaintiffs' Decedents' exposure to asbestos products is legally connected to Kaiser Gypsum, which is denied, occurred during any stage of the performance of a military government contract, the asbestos products legally connected with Kaiser Gypsum, if any, were manufactured, distributed, or otherwise furnished in accordance with reasonably precise specifications of the United States Government, of which Kaiser Gypsum made all disclosures necessary to avail itself of the military specifications and government contractors'

defense, which operates to grant immunity from said claims to Kaiser Gypsum.

#### **FIFTIETH DEFENSE**

There should be no recovery against Kaiser Gypsum under any provision of *Alabama Code* § 6-2-30, either alone or in conjunction with any other provision of Alabama law, because Section 6-2-30 is unconstitutional as it violates the following:

- a. The Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States;
- b. The Eighth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States;
- c. The Tenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States;
- d. The Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States;
- e. Article I, Section 15 of the Constitution of Alabama, 1901;
- f. Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution of Alabama, 1901;
- g. Article I, Section 13 of the Constitution of Alabama, 1901.

#### **FIFTY-FIRST DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum pleads notice to Plaintiffs' or Plaintiffs' Decedents' employers in accordance with *Vines v. Beloit Corp.*, 631 So.2d 1003 (Ala. 1994).

#### **FIFTY-SECOND DEFENSE**

There should be no recovery against Kaiser Gypsum under any theory of enterprise liability, concert of action, or alternative liability because such theories of recovery are not recognized under the laws of the State of Alabama.

#### **FIFTY-THIRD DEFENSE**

Alabama law regarding joint and several liability is constitutionally void as to Kaiser Gypsum and as applied to the facts and circumstances in this case in that:

- a. It operates to create an arbitrary and capricious method and manner for the jury's assessment and determination of damages without regard to the quality and quantity of culpable conduct of other defendants in the same action;
- b. It operates to deny Kaiser Gypsum a fair opportunity to have a jury assess damages based on Kaiser Gypsum's own culpability for negligence and/or wantonness, which cannot be segregated from allegation of negligence and/or wantonness against other defendants joined as one in this action;
- c. That in failing to provide for joint contribution and apportionment of damages among defendants;
  - 1. It deprives Kaiser Gypsum of property without due process of law contrary to the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of

- the United States Constitution and specifically to those portions thereof prohibiting any state from depriving any person or property without due process of law; and
2. Separately, it deprives Kaiser Gypsum of property without due process of law contrary to Article I, Section 6 of the Constitution of Alabama, providing that insofar as here germane that no person shall be deprived of property except by due process of law with the result that Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' Decedents are not entitled to recover in this case against Kaiser Gypsum for damages based on the evidence of negligence or wantonness of other defendants.

#### **FIFTY-FOURTH DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum denies, to the extent the actions alleged may have occurred, that any entity engaging in the activities alleged was acting as the agent or servant of Kaiser Gypsum, or at the instruction of or subject to control of Kaiser Gypsum with regard to any of the actions described in the Complaint. Accordingly, Kaiser Gypsum is not liable for any acts or omissions of such third parties as a matter of law.

#### **FIFTY-FIFTH DEFENSE**

There should be no recovery against Kaiser Gypsum because, as a matter of law, the imposition of liability under the Alabama Extended Manufacturer's Liability Doctrine or under any theory of implied or express warranty, separately or jointly, would operate as an *ex post facto* imposition of liability and duty and thus would violate Kaiser Gypsum's constitutional rights under:

- (a) the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States,
- (b) the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States,
- (c) the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States;
- (d) the Tenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States;
- (e) Article I, Section 15 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901;
- (f) Article I, Section 7 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901;
- (g) Article I, Section 10 of the United States Constitution.

#### **FIFTY-SIXTH DEFENSE**

There should be no recovery against Kaiser Gypsum based on the Alabama Extended Manufacturer's Liability Doctrine because there is no causal relation between the activities of Kaiser Gypsum and the injuries or illnesses of which the Plaintiffs now complain.

#### **FIFTY-SEVENTH DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum asserts all of the provisions of the Product Liability Act of Alabama, including, but not limited to, the Statute of Repose provision contained within *Code of Alabama* § 6-5-502(c). To the extent that any provisions therein have been deemed unconstitutional by the courts, Kaiser Gypsum reserves the right to have the Court revisit and reconsider any such prior rulings.

#### **FIFTY-EIGHTH DEFENSE**

As to any and all alleged breaches of warranty, Kaiser Gypsum would show that Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' Decedents are not third-party beneficiaries of any express or implied warranties. Such claims are further barred because of the following:

- (a) Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' Decedents were not in privity with Kaiser Gypsum; and
- (b) Plaintiff and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents failed to give Kaiser Gypsum notice of any alleged breach of warranty within a reasonable time.

#### **FIFTY-NINTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiffs' Decedents do not have a cause of action against Kaiser Gypsum for either implied warranty or strict liability under the laws of the State of Alabama. Therefore, such claims are barred.

#### **SIXTIETH DEFENSE**

There should be no recovery against Kaiser Gypsum for medical expenses incurred in the care, diagnosis, or treatment of any injury or illness of Plaintiffs' Decedents, if any thereby, because said Plaintiffs' Decedents' employers are obligated under the worker's compensation laws of the State of Alabama, or some other state, to pay for said medical expenses, which were incurred as a result of this occurrence and said employers will be obligated to do so because said Plaintiffs' Decedents are entitled to receive benefits from a private or public health insurance program, a health benefit plan, a union-sponsored or union provided health benefit plan or other source of

health benefits which is responsible for the payment of all medical expenses.

**SIXTY-FIRST DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum denies that Plaintiffs are entitled to damages of the nature, type, and/or amount sought in Plaintiffs' Complaint.

**SIXTY-SECOND DEFENSE**

Under Alabama law, Plaintiffs, separately and severally, are not entitled to recover any compensatory damages from Kaiser Gypsum.

**SIXTY-THIRD DEFENSE**

If the Plaintiffs' Decedents suffered any injuries or illnesses, as alleged, which is specifically denied, any such claim therefor against Kaiser Gypsum is speculative and no recovery can be awarded to Plaintiffs.

**SIXTY-FOURTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs are barred from recovering any damages by virtue of the fact that there was no practical or technically feasible alternative design or formulation that would have prevented the harm alleged to the Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' Decedents without substantially impairing the usefulness or intended purpose of the product.

**SIXTY-FIFTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs cannot recover damages for alleged mental anguish or emotional distress against Kaiser Gypsum because Plaintiffs cannot allege or prove that they sustained a physical injury as a result of Kaiser Gypsum's conduct or that Plaintiffs were placed in immediate risk of physical harm by that conduct.

**SIXTY-SIXTH DEFENSE**

The rules of evidence as applied by Federal courts permitting the admission of evidence of alleged mental pain and suffering do so in such a way as to violate the Due Process Clause of the Constitution of the United States and similar provisions in the Constitution of Alabama, 1901.



**SIXTY-SEVENTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs cannot recover for mental pain and suffering, emotional distress or similar damages, if any, if there is no physical manifestation of the alleged mental anguish and because there is no fixed, objective and/or clear and consistent standard under Alabama law for ascertaining the amount thereof, such that any award of said damages against Kaiser Gypsum would violate the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and Article I, Sections 1, 6 and 22 of the Constitution of Alabama, 1901.

**SIXTY-EIGHTH DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum denies any and all liability to the extent that Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs Decedents assert Kaiser Gypsum's alleged liability as a successor, successor in business, predecessor in product line or a portion thereof, assignor, predecessor, predecessor in business, predecessor in product line or a portion thereof, parent, alter ego, subsidiary, wholly or partially owned by, or the whole or partial owner of or member in any entity researching, studying, manufacturing, fabricating, designing, labeling, assembling, distributing, leasing, buying, offering for sale, selling, inspecting, servicing, installing, contacting for installation, repairing, marketing, warranting, re-banding, manufacturing for others, packaging and advertising a certain substance, the generic name of which is asbestos.

**SIXTY-NINTH DEFENSE**

Plaintiffs have failed to join indispensable or necessary parties, including but not limited to Amatex Corp., Aanco Holdings, Inc., Armstrong World Industries, Asbestec Industries, Inc., Asbestospray Corp., Babcock & Wilcox, Baldwin Ehret Hill, Keenc Corp., Beadex Manufacturing Company, Inc., Burns & Roe Enterprises, Carey Canada, Inc., The Celotex Corp., Philip Carey Co., Eagle-Picher Industries, E.J. Bartells, Forty-Eight Insulation, G-I Holdings, H.K. Porter, Johns Manville, National Gypsum Co., Nicolet/Keasby-Mattison, Owens Corning, Pittsburg Corning, Raybestots-Manhattan, Raymark Industries, Raytech Industries Corp., Rockwool, Rutland Fire Clay

Co., Standard Insulations, Unarco Industries Inc., UNR Industries Corp., U.S. Gypsum, Walter Industries and W. R. Grace.

#### **SEVENTIETH DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum alleges that Plaintiffs' or Plaintiffs Decedents' tobacco use is an assumption of a known risk, and that said conduct of Plaintiff or Plaintiffs Decedents proximately caused and contributed to Plaintiffs' or Plaintiffs Decedents' injuries and damages, if any, and therefore the recovery of Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs Decedents, if any, are barred or proportionately reduced.

#### **SEVENTY-FIRST DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum alleges that consumption of tobacco products is negligent per se because it is inherently unsafe and consumed with the ordinary community knowledge of its danger. Thus, the said negligence of Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs Decedents in consuming tobacco products proximately cause and contributed to Plaintiffs' or Plaintiffs Decedents' injuries and damages, if any, and therefore, Plaintiffs' or Plaintiffs Decedents' recovery, if any, is barred or proportionately reduced.

#### **SEVENTY-SECOND DEFENSE**

If it is proven at the time of trial that products for which Kaiser Gypsum is responsible were manufactured, furnished, distributed, supplied and/or sold as alleged in Plaintiffs' complaint, and if said products were used in the fashion alleged, all of which is specifically denied except as otherwise set forth above, then any such product was so manufactured, furnished, distributed, supplied and/or sold in conformity with the prevailing state-of-medical-art and the prevailing standards of the industry. Kaiser Gypsum's conduct, and any product for which it bears responsibility, was at all times in conformity with the prevailing standard of medical science and the prevailing standards of the industry. The state of the medical, scientific and industrial knowledge, art and practice was at all material times such that Kaiser Gypsum neither breached any duty owed to the Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs Decedents, nor knew or could have known, that the products for which it bears responsibility presented a foreseeable risk of harm to the Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs Decedents

in connection with asbestos exposure from the normal and expected use of such products.

**SEVENTY-THIRD DEFENSE**

If it is proven at the time of trial that products for which Kaiser Gypsum is responsible were manufactured, furnished, distributed, supplied and/or sold as alleged in Plaintiffs' and Plaintiffs Decedents' complaint, and if said products were used in the fashion alleged, all of which is specifically denied except as otherwise set forth above, then any harm to Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs Decedents which may have been caused by Plaintiffs' or Plaintiffs Decedents' exposure to such products was caused after the expiration of the useful safe lives of such products, for which Kaiser Gypsum is not subject to liability.

**SEVENTY-FOURTH DEFENSE**

The liability of Kaiser Gypsum, if any, was secondary, passive and subordinate to the primary, active and causative negligent acts and/or omissions of other defendants, for which Kaiser Gypsum is not liable and/or is entitled to indemnification from such other defendants.

**SEVENTY-FIFTH DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum alleges that, on information and belief, Plaintiffs named Kaiser Gypsum in this litigation without reasonable product identification and without a reasonable investigation; accordingly, Kaiser Gypsum requests reasonable expenses, including its attorney's fees, expert fees and costs incurred as a result of the filing and maintenance by Plaintiffs of this bad faith action.

**SEVENTY-SIXTH DEFENSE**

Punitive Damages claims should be stricken as a matter of law and as contrary to public policy because such claims serve no legitimate purpose in mass tort litigation where the defendant is no longer in business selling products and an award of punitive damages can only serve prematurely deplete the financial resources necessary to adequately compensate future plaintiffs.

**SEVENTY-SEVENTH DEFENSE**

Kaiser Gypsum hereby adopts and incorporates herein any and all affirmative defenses pleaded or raised by other defendants in this action.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Vincent A. Noletto, Jr.  
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Attorney for Kaiser Gypsum Company, Inc.

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2008, I electronically filed the foregoing pleading with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/EFC system which will send notification of such filing to all counsel of record.

/s/ Vincent A. Noletto, Jr.  
OF COUNSEL